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O R 200550Z APR 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6364
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA/USIA WASHDC 1655
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//PDE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAEF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IDM//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCFLNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//18.//
USDDCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-ID-CMI//
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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE HAGUE FOR
A-DAM AND R-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL 4/20/93
TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, UR, AF
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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 13 - APRIL 19, 1987

REF: KABUL 0641 ✓

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD,
PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING
PAGE NO.

ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY:

(A) (FOR BRIEFING TO PRESS:) MUJAHIDIN RECENTLY ROCKETED KANDAHAR AIRPORT AND PUL-I-CHARKHI PRISON. WHILE KABUL WAS RELATIVELY QUIET DURING THE PAST WEEK, HEAVY FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN PAKTIA, PARTICULARLY NEAR GARDEZ, IN PARMAN, LOGAR AND GHAZNI. EXTENSIVE SOVIET REPRISALS NEAR THE SOVIET BORDER, APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUING MUJAHIDIN RAIDS INTO SOVIET TERRITORY, MAY INDICATE A SOVIET PLAN TO DEPOPULATE THE BORDER AREA. LARGE HELICOPTER LIFTS FROM KABUL POINT TO AN INCREASED TEMPO OF SOVIET (AND DRA) MILITARY ACTIVITY WHILE THEIR TIRE TOP LEVEL FLYING SUGGESTS CONCERN OVER MUJAHIDIN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY. HEAVY DAWN CONVOY TRAFFIC, MUCH OF IT AMMUNITION AND ARMOR, LEFT KABUL DURING THE WEEK. DRA MEDIA HAVE YET TO REPORT THE DOWNING OF A DRA JET FIGHTER WHICH INTRUDED INTO PAKISTANI AIRSPACE APRIL 16.

(B) (NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS.)

4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS:

FEW INCOMING ROCKETS WERE REPORTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, MARKING THE FOURTH WEEK OF RELATIVE QUIET IN KABUL. NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WERE REPORTED IN AND NEAR THE CITY AS WELL AS SEVERAL REPORTS OF MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS IN THE URBAN AREA.

-- APRIL 13: DIPLOMATS OBSERVED DRA SENTRIES POSTED AT 100 METER INTERVALS ALONG PERIMETER ROAD EXTENDING FROM THE AIRPORT AREA TO THE JALALABAD ROAD DURING THE AFTERNOON. AT 2155 DIPLOMATS REPORTED HEARING SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IN NORTHERN KABUL.

-- APRIL 15: DIPLOMATS HEARD MACHINE GUN FIRE IN NORTHERN KABUL AT 2107. AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT THREE PARTY CADRE (PARCHAMI FACTION) WERE SHOT AND KILLED IN THE KOTI SANGI DISTRICT OF KABUL DURING THE EVENING. REPORTEDLY, THE THREE WERE ASKED TO PRODUCE IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AT WHAT APPEARED TO BE A ROUTINE SECURITY CHECK POINT, BUT WHEN THEY PRODUCED THEIR PARTY CARDS, MUJAHIDIN MASQUERADING AS DRA SECURITY PERSONNEL KILLED THEM.

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-- APRIL 18: A DIPLOMAT REPORTED MACHINEGUN FIRE WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE RESPONSE BETWEEN 0000 AND 0003 IN NORTHERN KABUL. AT 1200 A SERIES OF SINGLE SHOTS WERE HEARD NEAR THE U.S. EMBASSY.

-- APRIL 18-19: OVERNIGHT, IN SOUTHWESTERN KABUL QALAI SHAQA) MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED A JEEP.

5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

(A) (AIR): DIPLOMATS OBSERVED SEVERAL LARGE SOVIET HELICOPTER LIFTS DURING THE WEEK, SUGGESTING INCREASING CONFLICT OUTSIDE OF THE CAPITAL. NIGHTTIME AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY WAS NOTED MOST EVENINGS, AT LEAST SOME OF WHICH, ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, WAS SOVIET.

-- APRIL 13: APPROXIMATELY 16 SOVIET MI-8'S AND MI-24'S RETURNED AT LOW ALTITUDE FROM EAST AT 1200.

-- APRIL 15: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS OVER 20 SOVIET HELICOPTERS DEPARTED KABUL AIRPORT HEADED SOUTHWEST, FLYING AT HIGH ALTITUDE, EARLY IN THE MORNING. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED
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APPARENTLY THE SAME SOVIET AIRCRAFT RETURNING AT LOW ALTITUDE AT 0935.

-- APRIL 16: DIPLOMATS OBSERVED THE RETURN OF 10 SOVIET HELICOPTERS FROM THE WEST AT LOW ALTITUDE AT 0600.

-- APRIL 19: AT 1445 SIX MI-8'S AND TWO MI-24'S (PROBABLY ALL DRA) FLEW TO KABUL AIRPORT FROM THE WEST AT LOW ALTITUDE.

(B) (VEHICULAR MOVEMENT:) EARLIER (OFTEN AT OR BEFORE DAWN) SOVIET CONVOY MOVEMENT OUT OF THE CITY WAS HEAVIER.

-- APRIL 15: AT 0605 A SOVIET CONVOY OF MIXED TRUCKS MOVED NORTH ON THE SALANG ROAD FROM PERIMETER ROAD. THE CONVOY WAS ESCORTED BY TRUCK-MOUNTED ZU-23 GUNS. AT 0620 A 46-VEHICLE FUEL CONVOY, ESCORTED BY TRUCK-MOUNTED ZU-23 GUNS, WAS OBSERVED MOVING EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

-- APRIL 16: AT 0615 A SOVIET AMMO/ARMOR CONVOY (VEHICLE UNIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1041), CONTAINING 17 BTR'S (MOSTLY BTR-80'S), ONE TANK RECOVERY VEHICLE AND 24 TRAILER TRUCKS CARRYING ARMOR, WAS SEEN MOVING EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD, PROBABLY HEADED TOWARD JALALABAD. AT 0625 A SECOND SOVIET AMMO/ARMOR CONVOY (VEHICLE UNIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1042) WAS OBSERVED LEAVING PERIMETER ROAD AND HEADING EASTBOUND ON JALALABAD ROAD. IN ADDITION TO AMMO, THE OPEN TRUCKS

CARRIED 122 MM ROCKETS. AT 0630 A 54-VEHICLE SOVIET CONVOY, INCLUDING ARMOR, COVERED TRUCKS AND AMMO (UNIT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1051), HEADED SOUTH OUT OF THE CITY ON THE LOGAR ROAD. AT 0750 A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED A COLUMN OF 15 AFGHAN VEHICLES CONSISTING OF TWOJEEPS, SEVEN MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND SIX TRUCK-MOUNTED SA-2'S.

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USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLENA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10-CMI//
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-- APRIL 17: AT 0800 TWELVE SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES, INCLUDING ONE T-62, FIVE BTR'S AND SIX BMP'S, WERE NOTED STAGED EASTBOUND ON PERIMETER ROAD. AT 1500 A COLUMN OF APPROXIMATELY 60 VEHICLES WAS OBSERVED MOVING NORTH ON SALANG ROAD.

-- APRIL 19: AT 0710 A COLUMN OF SOVIET VEHICLES MOVED
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NORTH THROUGH KARTE PARWAN. THE VEHICLES, APPEARING TO HAVE COME FROM THE FIELD, INCLUDED ONE T-62 (WITH KMT-5 MINE CLEARING EQUIPMENT ATTACHED AND DEPLOYED). 10 BMP-2'S, 13 BTR'S AND 12 COVERED TRUCKS.

-- COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (CITY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED PARA 4:)

(A) (EASTERN KABUL): A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 12 MUJAHIDIN ROCKEDED PUL-I-CHARKHI PRISON LAUNCHING ROCKETS FROM THE CHEKEDI AREA (PHONETIC) NEAR SHEWAKI, SOUTH OF THE CITY. THE ROCKETING REPORTEDLY OCCURRED DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

(B) (NORTHERN KABUL): ON APRIL 12, ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED FOUR SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES AT SERAI-I-KHOJEH. AFGHAN SOURCES ALSO REPORT TO DIPLOMATS THAT SOVIET AND DRA AIRCRAFT, ON APRIL 9 TO 11 AND AGAIN ON APRIL 17, CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE ATTACKS IN THE SHAKAOARA-PAGHMAN AREA.

7. PAKTIA:

A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS MANY WOUNDED DRA TROOPS CURRENTLY ARE BEING BROUGHT INTO KABUL HOSPITALS FROM THE GARDEZ AREA. (SEE "KABULMEDIA, PARA 19, FOR DRA REPORT ON MUJAHIDIN ROCKETING OF GAROEZ.) A DIPLOMAT WHOSE REPORTING RECORD HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED CLAIMS THAT DURING APRIL OVER 50 DRA TROOPS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN FIGHTING IN PAKTIA.

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8. KANDAHAR: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT WITH GOOD ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN ROCKET KANDAHAR AIRPORT APRIL 8 TO 10, KILLING AND WOUNDING MANY DRA AND SOVIET CAORE. A DIPLOMAT OF UNDETERMINED REPORTING RELIABILITY CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN DOWNED ONE DRA AIRCRAFT APRIL 12 IN THE JODI AREA (UNLOCATED). THE SAME SOURCE CLAIMS MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED ONE TANK AND TWO JEEPS IN THE JANG AREA (ALSO UNLOCATED).

9. BALKH:

ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT, ON APPROXIMATELY APRIL 6, FIVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM THE AREA ATTEMPTED TO CONVENE A MEETING BUT WERE ATTACKED BY MUJAHIDIN WHO BEHEADED ALL FIVE. AT TAMARAK (UNLOCATED) MUJAHIDIN ON APRIL 10, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MALAWI SHAHBUDDIN ATTACKED A DRA CONVOY, DESTROYING 10 VEHICLES AND WOUNDING MANY TROOPS.

10. HERAT:

A DIPLOMAT OF UNDETERMINED REPORTING RELIABILITY CLAIMS THAT FIGHTING FROM LATE MARCH TO EARLY APRIL WAS HEAVY IN THE HERAT CITY AREA. DURING THE SAME TIME, MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED 20 TRACKED DRA AND SOVIET VEHICLES IN THE SHINDAND AREA.

1. FARYAB:

A DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT MUHAHIDIN HIT SIX POSTS IN THE PROVINCE, AND THAT IN THE ATTACKS DRA TROOPS IN SOME OF THE POSTS ASSISTED THE MUJAHIDIN.

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12. JAUZJAN:

A DIPLOMAT OF UNDERTERMINED REPORTING ACCURACY REPORTS
THAT MUJAHIDIN IN THE GARKHIN AREA WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE
RECENTLY.

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13. PARWAN:

NUMEROUS AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC REPORTS POINT TO HEAVY
CURRENT FIGHTING IN THE PROVINCE. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT
REPORTS THAT A MISSILE FIRED FROM THE KOHE SAFI AREA DOWNED
A SOVIET JET FIGHTER NEAR BAGRAM AIRFIELD ON APRIL 10.
THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 16 MUJAHIDIN AMBUSHED
A CONVOY NEAR THE SALANG TUNNEL, ESCORTED FIVE TRUCKS ONTO
A DIRT ROAD, THEN EMPTIED THE LOADS OF PRODUCE. IN AN

INCREASINGLY COMMON PRACTICE. MUJAHIDIN ALLOWED THE TRUCK DRIVERS TO RETURN TO KABUL, EVEN GIVING THEM PAPERS (SIMILAR TO RECEIPTS) TO AVOID CHARGES OF HAVING STOLEN THE CARGO THEMSELVES. HEAVY SNOW IN THE GULBAHAR AREA REPORTEDLY CONTINUES TO HAMPER MOVEMENT ALONG SALANG ROAD. A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS SOVIET BOMBING HAS BEEN HEAVY IN THE GHORRABAND AREA (34°59'N 68°44'E) DURING MID-APRIL. SOVIET/DRA GROUND FORCES MEANWHILE REPORTEDLY HAVE TAKEN REPRISALS AGAINST THE LOCAL POPULATION, IN ONE INSTANCE BURNING A MOSQUE (AND CLAIMING SUBSEQUENTLY THAT MUJAHIDIN VANDALISM WAS THE CAUSE); AND REFUGEES FROM THE GHORRABAND AREA ARE ARRIVING IN KABUL. A SEPARATE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET BASE NEAR JABAL OS SARAJ IN FIGHTING THAT SPILLED ONTO THE PANJSHER ROAD.

14. GHAZNI:

... A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE STATES THAT ON MARCH 26 IN THE RAMAK AREA (33°31'N 68°37'E) MUJAHIDIN DOWNED TWO SOVIET HELICOPTERS, THE PILOTS REPORTEDLY BEING KILLED. AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED A DRA JEEP WITH A MINE IN KHOGI DARIBAGH APRIL 18; AND IN KHOZ MAILI, THREE KMS WEST OF GHAZNI TOWN, FIGHTING, WHICH ERUPTED AT 1800 APRIL 13 AND CONTINUED INTO THE EARLY HOURS OF APRIL 14, RESULTED IN 25 DRA CASUALTIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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... DEAD AND WOUNDED. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN CASUALTIES IN THE LATTER ACTION WERE SIX WOUNDED AND TWO DEAD.

15. LOGAR:

... A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN DOWNED A DRA HELICOPTER ON APRIL 11 IN THE AINAK AREA (34°16'N 69°18'E). ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN, ATTEMPTING TO SET AN AMBUSH ON APRIL 8 CAME UNDER ATTACK BY SOVIET/DRA TROOPS. IN INTENSE FIGHTING 50 TO 60 SOVIET AND DRA TROOPS WERE KILLED AND FOUR SOVIET-DRA ARMORED VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED. SEVENTEEN MUJAHIDIN ALSO WERE KILLED.

16. LAGHMAN, BAGHLAN, WARDAK:

DIPLOMATIC AND AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN ALL THREE PROVINCES.

17. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (DEMONSTRATION AT U.S. EMBASSY): BETWEEN 8,000 AND

10,000 DEMONSTRATORS GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY APRIL 15 TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. RAIDS ON LIBYA. THE DEMONSTRATION, WHICH INCLUDED SOVIET

PLAINSCLOTHES PERSONNEL ACTING AS CROWD CONTROLLERS, WAS SMALLER THAN LAST YEAR'S AND DECIDELY UNENTHUSIASTIC. CHANTS OF "DEATH TO (FILL IN THE BLANK)" WERE COMMON AND AN AMERICAN FLAG WAS BURNED. THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR WHO WAS A FEATURED SPEAKER LATER SAID THAT HIS REMARKS WERE MISREPRESENTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS WHICH, HE CLAIMED, ALLEGED COMMENTS HE DID NOT MAKE CONCERNING PAKISTAN AND SUDAN.

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(B) (DRA AMBASSADOR TO ZIMBABWE REPORTEDLY NOMINATED):
WELL-PLACED DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT THE DRA HAS OMINATED
FORMER DRA AMBASSADOR TO POLAND MOHAMMED AYAN AYAN AS
AMBASSADOR TO HARARE.

(C) (PREPARATIONS FOR THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAUR REVOLUTION):
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EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE APRIL 27 CELEBRATION
OF THE SAUR REVOLUTION'S 8TH ANNIVERSARY. BESIDES THE BANNERS
AND LIGHTS NOW BEING STRUNG, THE CITY HAS WITNESSED ALMOST DAILY
EARLY MORNING MIG-21 LOW PASSES OVER THE CITY IN PRACTICE FOR
THE EVENT, BILLED AS A CELEBRATION OF PEACE. DRA AUTHORITIES
HAVE BANNED VISITS BY AFGHANS TO CERTAIN EMBASSIES UNTIL
AFTER APRIL 27, APPARENTLY AS A SECURITY PRECAUTION,
AND REPORTEDLY IS SIMILARLY RESTRICTING MOVEMENT OF PRIVATE
VEHICLES TO THE CAPITAL.

(D) (CHANGES AT MFA): ACCORDING TO REPORTS, APPROXIMATELY 25 MFA SENIOR PERSONNEL DESCRIBED AS WESTERN-ORIENTED (ENGLISH, FRENCH OR GERMAN SPEAKING) WILL BE TRANSFERRED. A SEPARATE BUT POSSIBLY RELATED REPORT DESCRIBES KHALOI FACTION CAORE AS DEMANDING A SHARE OF MFA POSITIONS. (SEE "KABUL MEDIA" PARA 19, FOR REPORT ON THE DEPARTURE OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YURISH FROM THE MINISTRY.)

18. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (DEPOPULATION OF NORTHERN BORDER REGIONS:) A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE CLAIMS THAT THE EXTENSIVE SOVIET MILITARY OPERATIONS IN KUNOUZ AND TAKHAR PROVINCES REPORTED REFTEL HAVE CONTINUED AND NOW AMOUNT TO AN EFFORT TO DEPOPULATE AREAS NEAR THE SOVIET BORDER WHICH RECENTLY HAS EXPERIENCED REPEATED MUJAHIDIN CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS (TASS CARRIED A REPORT OF MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS ON SOVIET TERRITORY AS RECENTLY AS APRIL 8-9.)

(B) (EXPANSION AND DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS AT SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL): TWO NEW STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT THE SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL IN KABUL. AT THE SAME TIME THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE FACILITY (WHICH FLIES A SOVIET FLAG) HAS BEEN ENHANCED.
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BEEN REINFORCED WHILE REPAIRS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE THE CEMENT BLOCK WALL THAT PROTECTS THE COMPOUND'S NORTH SIDE ALONG A ROAD.

(C) (NEW SOVIET EQUIPMENT): A DIPLOMAT WHO FOUND HIMSELF IN A SOVIET MILITARY COMPOUND IN KABUL OBSERVED 40-50 NEW BTR-80'S PARKED AT THE FACILITY.

19. KABUL MEDIA:

KABUL MEDIA HAVE YET TO RESPOND TO THE PAKISTANI SHOOTDOWN OF A DRA JET FIGHTER WHICH ENTERED PAKISTANI AIRSPACE ON APRIL 16. THE MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED THE ASSIGNMENT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SARWAR YURISH AS HEAD OF BAKHTAR, THE STATE-CONTROLLED NEWS AGENCY, IN A MOVE ANTICIPATED REFTEL.

-- APRIL 15: SPEAKING AT THE TRADITIONAL HINDU AND SIKH FESTIVAL OF VAISAKHI APRIL 14, THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR PRAISED THE "RELIGIOUS FREEDOM" ENJOYED BY ALL NATIONALITIES INHABITING AFGHANISTAN AND "VOICED SUPPORT OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT TO THE POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION."

-- APRIL 16: AN ARTICLE IN THE KABUL NEW TIMES CLAIMED THAT OVER 52,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO THE DRA IN RESPONSE TO THE REGIME'S NATIONAL RECONCILIATION CALL.

-- APRIL 18: DRA TELEVISION CARRIED A REPORT THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SARWAR YURISH WAS NAMED HEAD OF BAKHTAR

INFORMATION AGENCY. IT ALSO REPORTED THAT DR. ABDULBAKI SAMANDARI, SECOND DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, HAD BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. KABUL MEDIA CLAIMED THAT MUJAHIDIN FIRED 13 ROCKETS INTO GARDEZ CITY APRIL 15. THE SAME REPORT CLAIMS A MUJAHIDIN MINE DESTROYED A BUS IN SAYED KARAM DISTRICT OF PAKTIA PROVINCE.

-- APRIL 19: KABUL MEDIA CLAIMED THAT "SIX US-MADE SURFACE-CONFIDENTIAL
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TO-SURFACE ROCKETS" HAD BEEN FIRED (NO DATE GIVEN) INTO THE RESIDENTIAL AREA OF GRISHK (HELMAND PROVINCE), KILLING 15 AND WOUNDING 35. ATTACK WAS ATTRIBUTED TO "ARMED EXTREMIST GANGSTES".

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-09
L-03 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-G1 INRE-00 RP-10 ACDA-12
SP-02 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02 /081 W
-----272604 200939Z /11

O R 200550Z APR 87
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6369
INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

USIA WASHDC 1660
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
USDOSOUTH NAPLES IT
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-IO-CMI//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 06 KABUL 0684

20. SOVIETIZATION:

REFTEL CARRIED A REPORT THAT NORTHERN PROVINCES OF
AFGHANISTAN AND SOVIET CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS RECENTLY
HAD CONCLUDED DIRECT AGREEMENTS IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE AND
COOPERATION WHICH BYPASSED KABUL AND MOSCOW. FURTHER INVESTIGATION.
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, HAS INDICATED THAT WHILE THERE HAVE MANY SOVIET-
RA AGREEMENTS DEVOTED TO TRADE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
NORTHERN PROVINCES AND THE SOVIET ASIAN REPUBLICS, APPARENTLY
ONLY ONE DIRECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN A PROVINCE (BADAKHSHAN) AND
A REPUBLIC (TADZHIKISTAN) HAS BEEN SIGNED (IN 1983.)

21. NO: TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:



(C) (KARMAL LOYALIST BEING OUSTED FROM PARTY POST?):

A DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT KARMAL LOYALIST AND ALTERNATE
POLITBUREO MEMBER MAHMOUD BARYALAI GATHERED HIS FILES FROM
HIS OFFICE ON APRIL 14 AND DEPARTED. THE DEVELOPMENT IS SEEN
AS CORROBORATION OF RUMORS THAT HE WOULD BE REPLACED IN HIS
PARTY POSITION AS HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF THE PDPA CC. (COMMENT: WE REGARD THIS REPORT
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AS UNCONFIRMED.)

(E) (SOVIET AMBASSADOR DENIES PLANS TOHOLA A PDPA PLENUM):

THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR RECENTLY RESPONDED TO A QUERY FROM
A SENIOR COLLEAGUE ABOUT THE REASON FOR THE DELAY OF THE
LONG-RUMORED PDPA 21ST PLENUM BY STATING THERE WAS NO NEED
FOR ONE. SEPARATELY, A SENIOR BLOC DIPLOMAT HAS DESCRIBED
THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE AS CONFUSED, WITH MUCH "ZIGGING
AND ZAGGING."

(F) (ORA TO HOST KORANIC READING COMPETITION): THE ORA,

IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO POSTURE AS A PATRON OF ISLAM,
WILL SPONSOR AN INTERNATIONAL KORANIC READING COMPETITION
MAY 18. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ONLY COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS
WITH CLOSE POLITICAL TIES TO KABUL (LIBYA, THE PLO, INDIA AND
THE SOVIET UNION) WILL SEND DELEGATES.

22. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EALUM

NNNN